



Complete Summary

TITLE

Heart failure: percent of patients with documentation that left ventricular function was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or is planned for after discharge.

SOURCE(S)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). 7th statement of work (SOW). Quality of care measure specifications: heart failure (HF). Baltimore (MD): Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); 2002 Aug 1. Various p.

Heart failure core performance measures. In: Specifications manual for national implementation of hospital core measures. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 July. p. HF-1 to HF-4-5.

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the percentage of heart failure patients with documentation in the hospital record that left ventricular function (LVF) was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or planned for after discharge.

This measure represents an alignment of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations measures. As such, some attributes characterized in this NQMC summary may be attributable to either or both organizations.

RATIONALE

Appropriate selection of medications to reduce morbidity and mortality in heart failure requires the identification of patients with impaired left ventricular systolic function. National guidelines advocate the assessment of left ventricular systolic function as the single most important diagnostic test in the management of all patients with heart failure. Despite these recommendations, left ventricular function is not assessed in a substantial proportion of patients hospitalized with heart failure.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Heart failure; left ventricular function assessment

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Heart failure patients (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Heart failure patients with documentation in the hospital record that left ventricular function (LVF) was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or is planned for after discharge

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

NATIONAL GUIDELINE CLEARINGHOUSE LINK

- [ACC/AHA guidelines for the evaluation and management of chronic heart failure in the adult: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines \(Committee to Revise the 1995 Guidelines for the Evaluation and Management of Heart Failure\).](#)

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Overall poor quality for the performance measured

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Jencks SF, Cuerdon T, Burwen DR, Fleming B, Houck PM, Kussmaul AE, Nilasena DS, Ordin DL, Arday DR. Quality of medical care delivered to Medicare beneficiaries: A profile at state and national levels. JAMA 2000 Oct 4;284(13):1670-6. [PubMed](#)

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Accreditation

Collaborative inter-organizational quality improvement

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Hospitals

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Measure is not provider specific

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age greater than or equal to 18 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Nearly 5 million patients in the United States (U.S.) have heart failure (HF), and approximately 500,000 to 900,000 new cases are diagnosed each year.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Hunt SA, Baker DW, Chin MH, Cinquegrani MP, Feldman AM, Francis GS, Ganiats TG, Goldstein S, Gregoratos G, Jessup ML, Noble RJ, Packer M, Silver MA, Stevenson LW. ACC/AHA guidelines for the evaluation and management of chronic heart failure in the adult. Bethesda (MD): American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF); 2001 Sep. 56 p. [573 references]

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Heart failure (HF) is the most common Medicare diagnosis-related group, and more Medicare dollars are spent for the diagnosis and treatment of HF than for any other diagnosis.

EVIDENCE FOR COSTS

Hunt SA, Baker DW, Chin MH, Cinquegrani MP, Feldman AM, Francis GS, Ganiats TG, Goldstein S, Gregoratos G, Jessup ML, Noble RJ, Packer M, Silver MA, Stevenson LW. ACC/AHA guidelines for the evaluation and management of chronic heart failure in the adult. Bethesda (MD): American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF); 2001 Sep. 56 p. [573 references]

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Living with Illness

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Discharges, age 18 years and older, with a principal diagnosis of heart failure

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Institutionalization

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Discharges with an International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) Principal Diagnosis Code for heart failure

Exclusions

- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients transferred to another acute care hospital
- Patients who expired
- Patients who left against medical advice
- Patients discharged to hospice
- Patients with reasons documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant for not assessing left ventricular function (LVF)

Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Heart failure patients with documentation in the hospital record that left ventricular function (LVF) was assessed before arrival, during hospitalization, or is planned for after discharge

Exclusions
Unspecified

Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Episode of care

DATA SOURCE

Administrative and medical records data

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

External comparison at a point in time
External comparison of time trends
Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

The core measure pilot project was a collaboration among the Joint Commission, five state hospitals associations, five measurement systems, and 83 hospitals from across nine states. Participating hospitals collected and reported data for heart failure (HF) measures from December 2000 to December 2001.

Core measure reliability visits were completed the summer of 2001 at a random sample of 16 participating hospitals across 6 states.

Preliminary data from the pilot test demonstrate an opportunity for improvement with a mean rate of 79%.

EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). A comprehensive review of development and testing for national implementation of hospital core measures. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [8 p].

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Information on final specifications for national implementation of hospital core measures as of 11/04/02. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 Nov 04 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [10 p].

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Overview of the heart failure (HF) core measure set. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 Mar 22 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [3 p].

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

LVF assessment.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Aligned Measures](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Aligned Heart Failure Measures](#)

DEVELOPER

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

ENDORSER

National Quality Forum

INCLUDED IN

National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR)

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2000 Aug

REVISION DATE

2002 Aug

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). 7th statement of work (SOW). Quality of care measure specifications: heart failure (HF). Baltimore (MD): Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); 2002 Aug 1. Various p.

Heart failure core performance measures. In: Specifications manual for national implementation of hospital core measures. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 July. p. HF-1 to HF-4-5.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
The individual measure, "HF-2: LVF Assessment," is published in "Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services, 7th Statement of Work, Quality of Care Measure Specifications: Heart Failure (HF)."

For more information, e-mail CMS PROINQUIRIES at proinquiries@cms.hhs.gov.

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
The individual measure "LVF Assessment," is published in "Specifications Manual for National Implementation of Hospital Core Measures." Information is available from the [Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations \(JCAHO\) Web site](http://www.jcaho.org). For further information refer to www.jcaho.org.

COMPANION DOCUMENTS

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
A software application designed for the collection and analysis of quality improvement data, the CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART), is available from the [CMS CART Web site](http://www.cms.gov). Supporting documentation is also available.

For more information, e-mail CMS PROINQUIRIES at proinquiries@cms.hhs.gov.

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
The following are available:

- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Overview of the heart failure (HF) core measure set . [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 Mar 22 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [3 p]. This document is available from the [Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations \(JCAHO\) Web site](http://www.jcaho.org).

- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). A comprehensive review of development and testing for national implementation of hospital core measures. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [8 p]. This document is available from the [JCAHO Web site](#).
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Attributes of core performance measures and associated evaluation criteria. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [4 p]. This document is available from the [JCAHO Web site](#).
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Information on final specifications for national implementation of hospital core measures as of 11/04/02. [internet]. Oakbrook Terrace (IL): Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); 2002 Nov 04 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. [10 p]. This document is available from the [JCAHO Web site](#).

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on February 7, 2003. The information was verified by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations on February 12, 2003.

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